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10/699,101	10/30/2003	Richard Postrel	700-166RPA	5428
24002	7590	06/27/2005	EXAMINER	
ANTHONY R. BARKUME 20 GATEWAY LANE MANORVILLE, NY 11949			LASTRA, DANIEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/699,101

Applicant(s)

POSTREL, RICHARD

Examiner

DANIEL LASTRA

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-40 have been examined. Application 10/699,901 (SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING DESTINATION SPECIFIC COUPONS FOR A TRAVELER) has a filing date 10/30/2003 is a continuation of 09658329 Which Claims Priority from Provisional Application 60153353 09/10/1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-26 and 28-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tagawa (US 5,732,398).

As per claims 1, 12 and 36, Tagawa teaches:

A travel coupon server system comprising: a plurality of members; and
a travel coupon server, interconnected to the plurality of members, for generating limited duration coupons for a particular traveler which identifies the traveler by name (see figure 15a), which limits the duration of the offer of the coupon to the time-of the travel (see figure 15a "flight, time"), and which limits the coupons offered to the traveler's destinations or along the route to those destinations (see figure 15a, "from Oahu to Maui").

As per claims 2 and 13, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes an offering company (see column 10, lines 25-40).

As per claims 3 and 14, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes the particular traveler (see figure 15a, "Name: Steven Feeback").

As per claims 4 and 15, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes an intermediary agent for processing information about travelers (see column 13, lines 1-10).

As per claim 5, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 4 wherein the intermediary agent is a travel agent (see column 13, lines 1-10).

As per claim 6, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is an airline representative (see column 14, lines 1-4).

As per claim 7, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a representative of a cruise line (see column 17, lines 39-55).

As per claim 8, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a travel facilitator for one of a club, a union, a professional association, a financial institution, and an educational institution (see column 13, lines 6-10).

As per claim 9, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a travel information provider (see column 17, lines 20-36).

As per claims 10 and 16, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the travel coupon server further comprises:

processor means for managing the data of the travel coupon server and generating content for the participating members of the travel coupon server system (see figure 15a);

database means for storing profile data offer data and rules of the system (see column 2, lines 40-67) ; and

access means for receiving and interpreting inputs from the participating members of the travel coupon server system (see column 3, lines 10-25).

As per claims 11 and 17, Tagawa teaches:

The travel coupon server system of claim 9, wherein the database means includes:

means for storing traveler profile data, offer data, offering company profile data, and rules (see column 2, lines 40-67).

As per claim 18, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are generated according to a plurality of factors, including the date and the season of the year (see column 5, lines 47-57).

As per claim 19, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are applicable in the purchase of a product or a service (see figure 15a).

As per claim 20, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are numerically limited to a predetermined number of coupons (see figure 15a, "serial number, voucher number").

As per claim 21, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, Wherein the limited duration coupons include sequentially-generated indicia thereupon (see figure 15a, "voucher no., serial number").

As per claim 22, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the coupon server is interconnected to the plurality of members by wireless connections (see column 10, lines 10-15).

As per claim 23, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the coupon server pushes information to a user regarding available discount offers (see column 17, lines 10-20).

As per claim 24, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim '12, wherein the discount coupons are delivered to the user by mail.

As per claim 25, Tagawa teaches:

Art Unit: 3622

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons are delivered to the user over the Internet (see column 18, lines 47-50).

As per claim 26, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons including bar codes (see figure 15a); and upon redemption, a redemption station scans a respective bar code of a discount coupon to redeem the associated discount for the user (see column 16, lines 20-27) .

As per claim 28, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons are trackable upon redemption (see column 16, lines 20-27).

As per claim 29, Tagawa teaches:

A method for providing coupons to travelers, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving traveler information of a first traveler at a travel coupon server;

accessing traveler profile data corresponding to a traveler profile stored in a profiles database (see column 2, lines 40-67; column 17, lines 9-20);

determining a match of the traveler information of the first traveler with the traveler profile data (see column 17, lines 10-20); and

outputting the match to an offering company to cause the generation of an offer from the offering company for to be provided to the first traveler in a coupon to utilize the offer (see column 17, lines 10-20).

As per claim 30, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 29, wherein the travel coupon server, the first traveler, and the offering company are interconnected by a network for transmitting information in the steps of receiving the traveler information and outputting the match (see column 18, lines 47-67).

As per claim 31, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 30, wherein the network is the Internet (see column 18, lines 47-67).

As per claim 32, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 29, further, comprising the steps of:
transmitting the generated-offer from the offering company to the travel coupon server; and storing the generated offer in an offer database (see column 17, lines 9-20)

As per claim 33, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 32, further comprising the database steps of:
accessing the stored offers in the offer database (see column 17, lines 9-20); and
preparing a travel package for the first traveler including at least one offer matching the travel information of the first traveler (see column 17, lines 9-20).

As per claim 34, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving traveler information includes the step of: receiving travel destination data at a travel coupon server corresponding to a travel destination of the first traveler (see figure 15a, "from and to").

As per claim 35, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 34, further-comprising the steps of:

retrieving destination offer data from an offer database corresponding to the travel destination of the first traveler (see column 3, lines 10-25);

providing interactive data to the traveler (see column 3, lines 10-25); and recording traveler interactions with the travel coupon server in response to the interactive data, wherein the traveler interactions include input data from the first traveler to be included in the traveler information associated with the first traveler (see column 2, lines 40-67).

As per claim 37, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 36, wherein the first member includes a travel agent (see column 13, lines 6-10).

As per claim 38, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 36, wherein the step of interconnecting includes the step of: interconnecting the plurality of members and the travel coupon server via the Internet (see column 18, lines 46-50).

As per claim 39, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 38, wherein the step of generating and outputting includes the steps of: generating coupon data in a coupon format (see figure 15a); transmitting the coupon data via the Internet to a computing device of the particular traveler (see column 18, lines 46-67); and outputting the coupon data as a limited duration coupon directly to a printer associated with the particular traveler (see column 18, lines 46-67).

As per claim 40, Tagawa teaches:

The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 3622

displaying to the particular traveler through an associated web browser at least one available offer (see column 18, lines 46-67); and

receiving at the travel coupon server an offer selection from the particular traveler corresponding to a particular displayed offer (see column 18, lines 46-67);

wherein the steps of generating and outputting the limited duration coupon is responsive to the offer selection from the particular traveler through the web browser (see figure 15a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa (US 5,732,398) in view of Dixon (US 6,328,339).

As per claim 27, Tagawa teaches:

The coupon server system of claim 12, but fails to teach wherein redemption of a discounted-coupon enrolls the user in a sweepstakes. However, Dixon teaches a system where a coupon booklet includes sweepstakes information which awards consumers with a prize such as cash or credit in exchange for particular uses of said booklet (see column 11, lines 50-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Tagawa coupons' voucher would include sweepstake information which would award users with

Art Unit: 3622

prizes in exchange for said users using said vouchers or coupons, as taught by Dixon. Allowing users to participate in sweepstakes would make said users more willing to participate in the Tagawa system.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 571-272-6720. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W. STAMBER can be reached on 571-272-6724. The Examiner's Right fax number is 571-273-6720.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DL

Daniel Lastra
June 13, 2005

Retta Yehdega
RETTA YEHDEGA
PRIMARY EXAMINER